IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A method of coding (2) a signal (S) comprising blocks of values to obtain a scalable bit-stream (O,BS), the method comprising the steps of:

representing (20) each block as a sequence of bit planes (BP), wherein most significant bits of the values form a most significant bit plane (BP_{MSB}) and respective less significant bits of the values form respective less significant bit planes; and

scanning and transmitting (21,23) significant coefficients values in an order of decreasing bit plane (BP) significance;

wherein for each bit plane the step of scanning and transmitting (21,23) is performed in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from a corner of the block, wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number ~~and are~~ determined as the outermost positions ~~of the determination~~ of newly significant coefficients within each bit plane and said R_{MAX} and C_{MAX} values are transmitted in said bit-stream.

2. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the values are transform coefficients.

3. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coding (2) is performed on each block individually to obtain respective scalable bit-streams for respective individual blocks.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the step of scanning and transmitting (21,23) comprises:

initially marking (22) all values insignificant; and

performing the following steps for each bit-plane ($BP_{MSB}...BP_{LSB}$) until a stop criterion is met:

- transmitting (22,23) a bit for each significant value (SC) in a current bit plane (BP);
- transmitting (21,23) an indication whether or not any insignificant values become newly significant in the current bit plane; and
- selecting and transmitting (21,23) ~~dimensions of the rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}/C_{MAX}) for the newly significant values in the current bit plane,~~ ~~followed by~~ an indication for each not previously significant value inside the scan zone whether the value has become newly significant (NSC) and a sign bit for each newly significant value (NSC) <u>following said transmitted R_{MAX} and C_{MAX}</u>.

5. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 4,
        wherein parts of the bit-stream representing the newly significant values (NSC) are entropy coded.

6. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 3,
        wherein a scalable bit-stream is obtained by cyclically and sequentially scanning selected parts (P1,P2,...) of the respective scalable bit-streams (DCT_1...DCT_N) of the respective individual blocks.

7. (Currently amended) A device (2) for coding (2) a signal (S) comprising blocks of values to obtain a scalable bit-stream (O,BS), the device comprising:
        means for representing (20) each block as a sequence of bit planes (BP), wherein most significant bits of the values form a most significant bit plane (BP_{MSB}) and respective less significant bits of the values form respective less significant bit planes; and
        means for scanning and transmitting (21,23) the values in an order of decreasing bit plane (BP) significance;
        wherein for each bit plane the means for scanning and transmitting (21,23) have been arranged to perform the scanning and transmitting for each bit plane in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from an upper left corner of the block

wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number ~~and are~~ determined as the outermost positions ~~of the determination~~ of newly significant coefficients within each bit plane <u>and said R_{MAX} and C_{MAX} values are transmitted in said bit-stream.</u>

8. (Previously presented) The device (93) as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

 a truncator (95) for truncating the scalable bit-stream (O,BS) at a certain bit-rate.

9. (Previously presented) The device (54,76) as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

 a memory (55,78) for storing a previous frame-wherein the scalable bit-stream (O,BS) is furnished to the memory (55,78).

10. (Currently amended) A camera system comprising:

 a camera (4); and

 an encoder for coding (2) a signal (S) comprising blocks of values to obtain a scalable bit-stream (O,BS), the device comprising:

  means for representing (20) each block as a sequence of bit planes (BP), wherein most significant bits of the values form a most significant bit plane (BP_{MSB}) and respective less significant bits of the values form respective less significant bit planes; and

  means for scanning and transmitting (21,23) the values in an order of decreasing bit plane (BP) significance;

  wherein for each bit plane the means for scanning and transmitting (21,23) have been arranged to perform the scanning and transmitting for each bit plane in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from an upper left corner of the block, wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number ~~and are~~ determined as the outermost positions ~~of the determination~~ of newly significant coefficients within each bit plane <u>and said R_{MAX} and C_{MAX} values are transmitted in said bit-stream.</u>

11. (Currently amended)   A method of decoding (11) comprising:

receiving (111) a scalable bit-stream (O,BS) comprising blocks of values, the values for each block being available in an order of decreasing bit plane significance and for each bit plane scanned in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from an upper left corner of the block, wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number and are determined as the outermost positions and received in the bit-stream;

regenerating (112) the blocks of values from the scalable bit-stream (O,BS); and

decoding (113-115) the blocks of values.

12. (Currently amended)   A scalable decoder (11) comprising:

means for receiving (111) a scalable bit-stream (O,BS) comprising blocks of values, the values for each block being available in an order of decreasing bit plane significance and for each bit plane scanned in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from an upper left corner of the block, wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number and are determined as the outermost positions of the determination of newly significant coefficients within each bit plane and received in the bit-stream;

means for regenerating (112) the blocks of values from the scalable bit-stream (O,BS); and

means for decoding (113-115) the blocks of values.

13. (Previously presented) The decoder as claimed in claim 12 further comprising:

means for outputting (12) the decoded values.

14. (Currently amended)   A method for scanning a scalable bit-stream (BS) comprising blocks of values, the values for each block being available in an order of decreasing bit plane significance, said method comprising the step of:

scanning each bit plane in a rectangular scan zone (R_{MAX}, C_{MAX}) starting from an upper left corner of a selected block, wherein R_{MAX} represents a maximum row

number and C_{MAX} represents a maximum column number ~~and are~~ determined as the outermost positions ~~of the determination~~ of newly significant coefficients within each bit plane <u>and said R_{MAX} and C_{MAX} values are transmitted in said bit-stream.</u>

15.(Previously presented)   The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said bit-stream (BS) is recorded on a storage medium (10).